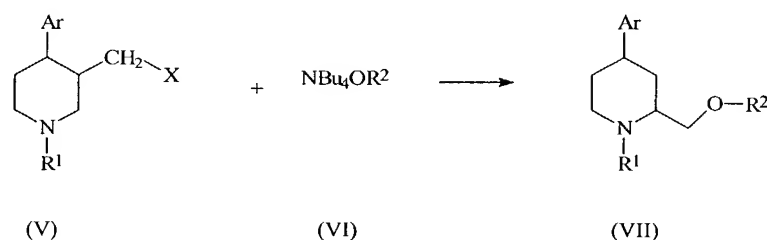


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing compound (VII) comprising reacting compound (V) with compound (VI) in an organic solvent:



wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of halogen and -OSO₂R³;

Ar is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen, alkoxy or other inert group;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl and aryl alkoxycarbonyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl, wherein any one or more of said aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted by the group consisting of alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, methylenedioxy, alkyl sulfonyl, aryl sulfonyl, alkaryl sulfonyl and aralkyl sulfonyl; and

R³ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl and alkaryl.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein R¹ is methyl, Ar is fluorophenyl and X is selected from a group consisting of halogen, mesylate and tosylate.
3. The process of claim 2, wherein the fluorophenyl has a fluorine in a para position.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of toluene and isopropyl alcohol.
5. The process of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is a dipolar aprotic solvent.
6. The process of claim 5, wherein the dipolar aprotic solvent is acetonitrile.
7. The process of claim 1, wherein the yield is at least about 25%.
8. The process of claim 7, wherein the yield is at least about 55%.
9. The process of claim 8, wherein the yield is at least about 85%.
10. The process of claim 1, further comprising a step of replacing R¹ with a hydrogen in compound VII.
11. The process of claim 10, wherein R¹ is a methyl group.
12. The process of claim 11, wherein the methyl group is removed by transformation to a carbamate followed by alkaline hydrolysis.
13. A process for preparing N-methylparoxetine comprising reacting CIPMA with sesamol-tetrabutylammonium salt in an organic solvent.
14. The process of claim 13, wherein the yield is at least about 25%.
15. The process of claim 14, wherein the yield is at least about 55%.
16. The process of claim 15, wherein the yield is at least about 85%.
17. The process of claim 13, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of toluene and isopropyl alcohol.

18. The process of claim 13, wherein the organic solvent is a dipolar aprotic solvent.
19. The process of claim 18, wherein the dipolar aprotic solvent is acetonitrile.
- 5 20. A process for preparing paroxetine comprising removing the N-methyl group of N-methylparoxetine prepared by the process of claim 13.
21. The process of claim 20, wherein the N-methyl group is removed by transformation to a carbamate followed by alkaline hydrolysis.
- 10 22. Sesamol-tetrabutylammonium salt.
23. A process for preparing sesamol-tetrabutylammonium salt of claim 22 comprising contacting tetrabutylammonium ions with sesamol or sesamol ions in an organic solvent.
- 15 24. The process of claim 23, further comprising contacting in the presence of a base.
- 20 25. The process of claim 23, wherein the tetrabutylammonium ions are complexed with hydroxide ions.
26. The process of claim 23, wherein the organic solvent is an alcohol or a mixture of alcohols.
- 25 27. The process of claim 26, wherein the mixture comprises of isopropanol and methanol.